

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

January 14, 2003

5:30 PM

Chairman Sysyn called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Sysyn, Guinta (arrived late), Osborne, Garrity, Forest

Messrs.: Tom Lolicata, Lt. Richard Valenti

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 3 of the agenda:

3. Communication from Alderman Garrity requesting the Committee's consideration for the installation of a 20 mph Flashing School Zone signal in the vicinity of Bakersville School.

Chairman Sysyn asked does that money come out of Traffic.

Mr. Lolicata replied if you look at the estimate in item 3 we're saying "donated what we had for spare parts". There are estimates to go with all the other stuff, quite frankly, you're going to have to find the money for it because I don't have it.

Alderman Garrity stated the reason why I've requested this is I've been dealing with this as an issue for five years now. One as a School Board member and one as an Aldermen and I don't know if anyone's been down there at 7:30 in the morning and 2:30 in the afternoon but it's not a safe situation. I would say that the Police Department has a pretty good presence there during and opening and closing of school. I think it's a proven method to slow down traffic like at Beech Street School and West School. I had been working with the School District and also the Police Department to possibly find some grant funding and have seen no success over the past couple of years. I think the Traffic Department has done a pretty good job of trying to keep the costs down and would like to ask the Committee to forward this to the Board for their consideration of using Contingency funds and see if we can get these installed in March or so and moved on the request.

Alderman Forest duly seconded the motion for the installation of a 20-mph flashing school zone signal and further that the cost of \$6,100 be transferred from Contingency for this purpose.

Alderman Forest asked is that Route 3 or 3A.

Mr. Lolicata replied it's Route 3.

Alderman Forest asked is there anyway we could approach the State to see if it's a state road.

Mr. Lolicata replied before the school got involved they couldn't even get grants for it.

Alderman Garrity stated we've been working on it for some time.

Mr. Lolicata stated the girl up at Ash Street couldn't even get grants over a year ago.

Alderman Osborne asked where did the money come from for the Beech Street School flashers?

Mr. Lolicata replied that's been quite a while...going back to New England Signal, back in the 70's. The spares from St. Francis School, which is, now gone are the ones that are going to be used down at Bakersville if we get the money. What you see are two dots and come up to almost \$8,000 (our spare parts).

Alderman Garrity stated you'll see most of the teachers out there, it's quite a chore getting the kids across the street and not only are they doing right turns on red down there, I'm sure, but they're doing more than 20 mph. South Elm south of Queen City Avenue isn't so bad, it's once they come down that hill from the west side of Elm they're moving by that time and trying to make the light at Elm.

Alderman Forest stated I have something else I was going to save it for new business but seeing Alderman Garrity brought it about the right turns on red...I go back to September or October when the Board received a letter from a gentlemen who testified at one of our public hearings about the right turn on red signs all over the City and I see it every morning and every day. I've seen cruisers doing it. They're coming off side streets that say no right turn on red and they're making them, so maybe in that light maybe you could make some notes to your officers that either we enforce them or we get Traffic to take them out.

Alderman Garrity stated they're actually being enforced. I go through there every morning and I've done that quite often. There is no problem with the Police presence down there.

Chairman Sysyn called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 4 of the agenda:

4. Results of a comparison of garage and lot rates with various other cities originally requested by Alderman Garrity.

Alderman Garrity asked what are we getting for the lot rates per month in Manchester.

Mr. Lolicata replied in the Millyard \$36.00 and up in the eastern part it's \$41.00.

Alderman Garrity stated obviously we're below market rates with the surrounding towns and cities and I would guess it's up to the committee as to what it wishes to do with this item.

Chairman Sysyn stated by the next year we should go up again in the garages although Alderman Guinta might disagree. Tom had a proposal before us and all we voted on was the \$60.00 per month for the garages and he had included the lots.

Mr. Lolicata stated not on-street just the lots and the garages.

Chairman Sysyn stated maybe we should look at that at a later date.

Alderman Garrity stated may I suggest maybe in April before the next fiscal year.

Chairman Sysyn stated we could get it on our agenda in April or maybe even March.

Mr. Lolicata stated we went from \$1.00 to \$5.00 and I think in the garages you went up to a \$4.00 increase and I had the same for the lots.

Alderman Forest stated I was opposed to it then and I'll probably be again in April too.

On motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman Forest, it was voted to receive and file item 4.

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 5 of the agenda:

5. Communication from Robin Comstock , requesting the City's input on how best to utilize the new Chamber logo on road signs, city vehicles, maps, etc.

Alderman Garrity moved for discussion. Alderman Guinta duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Garrity stated there has to be a cost factor involved.

Chairman Sysyn stated I don't think the City should pick it up.

On motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman Guinta, it was voted to table item 5 pending further information from Ms. Comstock.

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 6 of the agenda:

6. Communication from Joseph Webster requesting the use of the parking lot area of Arms Park on Sunday, April 6, 2003 from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM in conjunction with the annual Manchester MS Walk.

Mr. Lolicata introduced Lt. Valenti who is the new head of the Traffic Division at the Police Department and maybe he is not aware that the Police have the book of bookings during the year which started way back with Jim Winn...anybody requesting the use of Arms Park we would first check with Police to see if they've utilized it (weekends only). If that date is open, I wouldn't see problems, we just have to watch for conflicting dates with some other event.

On motion of Alderman Osborne, duly seconded by Alderman Guinta, it was voted to approve a request to use the parking lot at Arms Park on Sunday, April 6, 2003 from 9 AM until 4 PM in conjunction with the annual Manchester MS Walk be granted and approved under the direct supervision of the City Clerk, Fire, Highway, Police, Traffic and Risk Departments.

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 7 of the agenda:

7. Petition from the residents of Kennard Road requesting that on-street parking on the north side of Kennard Road be reinstated.

Mr. Lolicata stated right now we're working on it and Lt. Valenti has already spoken to Alderman Gatsas who had requested it remain on the table for now and we're hoping to perhaps have answers for everyone by the next meeting.

On motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman Osborne, it was voted to table item 7 pending further review and recommendation back to committee from City staff.

Alderman Osborne asked how many accidents were on that road?

Chairman Sysyn replied one some kid was flying down the street and rammed into a car.

Lt. Valenti stated from the Smyth Road area to Mammoth Road we've had six accidents in a year, it's tough to have the computer break it down, etc.

Alderman Osborne asked were they rear enders, parked cars or what?

Lt. Valenti replied I'm not sure, we just ran it.

Alderman Osborne stated I think this is what Alderman Gatsas is interested in.

Alderman Forest stated Lt. Lussier was concerned about that also wasn't he.

Mr. Lolicata stated it was brought up because of a complaint at the crest of the hill and the people are doing just the opposite, they want to take it out of there. In all of the years they've been there they're saying nothing's happened.

Lt. Valenti stated here's the breakdown...there were six accidents on Smyth Road and Kennard (hit & run), Kennard and Smyth (accident), Kennard and Smyth (accident w/personal injury), Kennard and Mammoth (accident)...we ran that section, it was just hard to just put in Lindahl to Smyth and run just that section in the computer...and then at Mammoth and Kennard (hit & run). We did a report on it and did a thorough investigation of what we thought was the feasibility of parking.

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 8 of the agenda:

8. Chairman Sysyn advises that the Traffic Department has submitted an agenda, which needs to be addressed as follows:

NO PARKING:

On Beech St., west side, from Harvard St. to a point 90 feet northerly

On Somerville St. south side, from Wilson St. east back St. to a point

65 feet easterly (Emergency Act)

Alderman Shea

On motion of Alderman Osborne, duly seconded by Alderman Forest, it was voted to approve the No Parking regulations as submitted.

NO PARKING LOADING ZONE:

On Rimmon St., east side, from a point 148 feet south of Kelley St. to a point

24 feet south

Alderman Thibault – emergency act

On motion of Alderman Osborne, duly seconded by Alderman Forest, it was voted to approve the No Parking Loading Zone regulation as submitted.

AUDIBLE PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL:

Amory St. and Coolidge Ave.

Alderman Thibault

On motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman Garrity, it was voted to approve the Audible Pedestrian Signal regulation as submitted.

Chairman Sysyn stated before we adjourn I just want to inform the committee that Peter Sullivan stopped by my cart the other day to tell me that up in Concord they have a bill that they are going to present over the back street parking so that we would be able to enforce it which has been introduced by Leo Pepino and co-sponsored by Mr. Sullivan.

There being no further business to come before the committee, on motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman Osborne, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee